



MONTANA LEGISLATURE

Health and Human Services Joint Appropriation Subcommittee

Room 102 Capitol Building * Helena, MT 59620

Chair

Representative Teresa Henry

EXHIBIT

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DATE

1/7/9

HB

DATE: January 7, 2009

TO: House Human Services Committee
Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Safety

FROM: Representative Teresa Henry, Chair of the Health and Human Services Joint
Appropriation Subcommittee *TKH*

RE: Invitation for Joint Meeting on Implementation of Healthy Montana Kids (I-155)

I would like to invite members of the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Safety to join the Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Friday January 9 from 8:00 until noon in room 102 when the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will present its implementation plan for the Health Montana Kids program enacted by passage of voter initiative 155 (I-155). The goals of the meeting are to brief legislators on important aspects of I-155 to help them in consideration of any bills and appropriation requests related to Healthy Montana Kids and to provide a background for legislators who may sit on interim committees that monitor program implementation.

In particular at the meeting DPHHS will address:

- o Its interpretation of Medicaid eligibility changes enacted by I-155
- o Necessary state plan amendments to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), which will require federal approval
- o Implementation timeline with specific reference to:
 - o Determination of eligibility processes
 - o Centralized versus dispersed in county offices
 - o Presumptive eligibility
 - o Outreach and determination of enrollment partners and types of responsibility/authority
 - o Transition of children currently enrolled in CHIP to Medicaid
 - o Estimated date of federal plan approval and the date for enrolling children with family incomes up to the limits established in I-155
 - o Computer system changes, rule publication and finalization, and other infrastructure changes
 - o Service packages
- o Potential Medicaid funding for enrollment in employer plans
- o CHIP federal grant amount and CHIP reauthorization

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- o Current federal interpretation barring use of Medicaid funds for children with incomes within state CHIP eligibility standards known as "once CHIP always CHIP"
- o Options for funding I-155 – separate CHIP program versus Medicaid expansion
- o Overview of HB 157 sponsored by Representative Chuck Hunter is to clarify certain statutes enacted by I-155 and to provide an appropriation for this fiscal year

There will be time for questions and discussion with DPHHS staff. If you have specific questions that you would like addressed at this meeting, please forward them to Lois Steinbeck, Senior Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (444-5391 or lsteinbeck@mt.gov).

The meeting will be held Friday, January 9 from 8:00 am until noon in room 102.